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September 24, 2021

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire  
Chief Clerk & Administrator  
Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Application of Elite Movers, LLC to Amend Its Tariff  
(See Docket No. 2019-336-T)  
**Docket No. 2021-211-T**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Please allow this letter to serve as the report the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) requested from the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) in Order No. 2021-538 issued in the above-referenced docket on August 25, 2021. The Commission requested the ORS file a report within thirty (30) days of that Order “regarding the reasonability of the present use of the South Carolina Tariff Bureau Rates to compare proposed rates with those of other household goods movers.”

Consistent with past practice in dockets where Class E household goods carriers request to amend their tariffs, the table the ORS included as Exhibit A with its letter filed in this docket on August 9, 2021, contained a column with South Carolina Tariff Bureau (“Tariff Bureau”) rates. The inclusion of Tariff Bureau rates in this table was not intended to be any form of indicator or metric of whether the proposed amended rates of Elite Movers, LLC (“Elite Movers”) are reasonable. The Tariff Bureau is a nonprofit corporation whose subscribing carriers utilize its tariff.<sup>1</sup> The Tariff Bureau is not a government agency and household goods carriers are not

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<sup>1</sup> See S.C. Code Ann. § 58-23-1010 (“The commission may approve joint rates, local rates, and rate agreements between two or more motor carriers relating to rates, classifications, allowances, and charges agreed to and published by individuals, firms, corporations, or the South Carolina Tariff Bureau.”).

required to be subscribers or use its tariff.<sup>2</sup> The ORS intends to no longer include information on Tariff Bureau rates in similar tables filed in future tariff amendment dockets.

The ORS does not evaluate or provide recommendations regarding the reasonableness of household good movers' rates. Household goods movers are not granted the exclusive right to provide a service in a particular territory, and they operate in a competitive marketplace.<sup>3</sup> The ORS does evaluate compliance with issues related to motor carriers' tariffs such as whether carriers are charging the rates set forth in their tariffs as required by S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 103-198 and whether a proposed tariff complies with the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 103-190.

Thank you for your consideration and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Huber

cc: All Parties of Record (via electronic mail)  
David Butler, Esquire (via electronic mail)

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<sup>2</sup> Currently, approximately one quarter of Class E Household Goods certificate holders utilize the Tariff Bureau's tariff.

<sup>3</sup> There has been movement in recent history in both neighboring states and at the federal level away from attempting to ascertain reasonable rates for individual household goods movers. At the federal level, the Interstate Commerce Termination Act "replaced the requirement applicable to household goods carriers that rates be contained in *filed* tariffs to one that they be contained in *published* tariffs." *In re Household Goods Movers Antitrust Litig.*, No. 2:07-CV-2861-DCN, 2009 WL 8234043, at \*8 (D.S.C. Sept. 10, 2009). North Carolina and Georgia both utilize Maximum Rate Tariffs that establish maximum rates movers can charge. See <https://www.ncuc.net/Industries/transportation/transportation.html> (North Carolina); <https://gamccd.net/HouseholdGoods.aspx> (Georgia).